

REMARKS

This response is being filed pursuant to the Non-Final Office Action mailed July 18, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks below.

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 3-13, 16-24 and 26-34 are presently pending in this application. Claims 10 and 12 were amended in this response. Claims 2 and 25 were canceled, without prejudice. No new matter was introduced as a result of these amendments.

Claims 2, 5-7 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Prior Art Rejections


Claims 3-4, 8-24 and 26-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Johnson* (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,582) in view of *Peters et al.* (US Patent 6,785,768). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested

Independent claims 10 and 12 were rewritten to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 25, respectively. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is overcome.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-13, 16-24 and 26-34 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance. If any additional fees are due in connection with this Application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from deposit account number 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112740-638) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 
Peter Zura
Reg. No. 48,196
Customer No.: 29177
Phone: (312) 807-4208

Dated: October 18, 2005